

## Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 L-02 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 MC-01 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /055 W

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R 160858Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7491

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8360

CINCPAC FOR POLAD. POLAD PASS HABIB AND SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KS

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON ROK FIGHTER AIRCRAFT DECISION

1. ACCORDING ALL REPORTS ROK MND TEAM ESTABLISHED IN OCTOBER TO STUDY FUTURE ROK FIGHTER AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS AND TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CO-PRODUCE AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN MAKING CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. BOTH JUSMAG AND NORTHROP REPS WHO WERE HERE END NOVEMBER AND AGAIN LAST WEEK HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT TEAM HAS DETERMINED AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY IN KOREA FEASIBLE.

OUR INFORMANTS STRESS THAT TEAM IS ONLY NOW IN PROCESS BRIEFING MND HIGHER OFFICIALS HOWEVER AND THAT FINAL DECISION RE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT WILL BE MADE BY PRESIDENT PARK AFTER BRIEFINGS AT BLUE HOUSE. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR ROK DECISION ON AIRCRAFT BY JANUARY 1, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS PROBABLE BUY OR BUILD DECISION WILL BE PUT OFF UNTIL US DECISION ON YF-16/17 MADE.

2. IF ROKS WERE TO DECIDE TO BUY 60 F-5ES NORTHROP REPS HAVE TOLD THEM DELIVERY COULD START MARCH, 1977 AND WOULD BE COMPLETED BY JULY , 1978; DELIVERY UNDER CO-  
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PRODUCTION SCHEME AT TOTAL COST OF \$266 MILLION FOR 60

AIRCRAFT WOULD EXTEND FROM SEPTEMBER, 1977 TO AUGUST, 1980. NORTHROP HAS ALSO TOLD ROKS THAT TO INSURE PRICE AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE THEY SHOULD REQUEST LETTER OF OFFER TO BUY OR BUILD F-5E NOW, AND RESERVE \$10 MILLION IN THEIR BUDGET SO NORTHROP CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH PURCHASE OF LONG LEAD ITEMS; ACCORDING NORTHROP PROPOSAL ROKS WOULD HAVE UP TO MARCH 31, 1975 TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS AT MINIMAL COST OF \$1 MILLION. MND HAS SO FAR HOWEVER, DECLINED TO MAKE EVEN THIS TENTATIVE COMMITMENT, PRESUMABLY PREFERRING TO WAIT FOR FINAL BLUE HOUSE DECISION.

3. NORTHROP'S COMPETITORS MCDONNELL DOUGLAS WITH ITS F-4 AND LOCKHEED WITH F-104S HAVE BOTH HAD REPS IN TOWN RECENTLY. MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HAS NOT AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE BEEN PUSHING ANYWHERE NEAR AS HARD AS NORTHROP BUT LOCKHEED AS A SELF-ACKNOWLEDGED DARK HORSE, HAS MOUNTED FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL BRIEFING EFFORT AND CLAIMS IT IS IN THE RUNNING, ERICSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PROGRESS REPORT ON ROK FIGHTER AIRCRAFT DECISION  
**TAGS:** MASS, KS, NORTHROP CORPORATION  
**To:** STATE  
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